



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/467,388	12/21/1999	NELSON L. YAPLE	42390.P7088	2337

7590 11/01/2002

ALOYSIUS T C AUYEUNG  
BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP  
12400 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD 7TH FL  
LOS ANGELES, CA 900251026

EXAMINER

NAJJAR, SALEH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2154

DATE MAILED: 11/01/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/467,388

Applicant(s)

YAPLE, NELSON L.

Examiner

Saleh Najjar

Art Unit

2154

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 December 1999.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4. 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

1. This action is responsive to the application filed on December 21, 1999. Claims 1-22 are pending. Claims 1-22 represent a method and system for a dedicated digital to analog network audio bridge.

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ghori et al., International Publication Number WO 98 34377 A (SHAREWAVE INC.) (Submitted by the applicant as prior art) .

Ghori teaches the invention as claimed including a digital wireless home computer system for receiving digital encoded audio from the network (see abstract).

As to claim 1, Ghori teaches a method for rendering audio, the method comprising: receiving by a dedicated home network enabled digital-to-analog audio bridging device (ABD), digital audio data transmitted across a network from a remotely located audio host; determining by the ABD whether the digital audio data is encoded according to one of a plurality of coding schemes; decoding by the ABD encoded digital audio data based upon a determined coding scheme (see figs. 1-7; page 16, 26, Ghori teaches a digital to analog bridge device for receiving digital audio data); and converting by the ABD the digital audio data to analog audio and outputting the analog audio for use by a loudspeaker proximately located to the ABD (see fig. 4; page 12, Ghori teaches that the audio bridge converts digital audio to analog signal and is transferred to a speaker system).

As to claim 2, Ghori teaches the method according to claim 1, wherein the audio host is a general purpose computing device having an operating system (see figs. 1-7; page 5).

As to claim 3, Ghori teaches the method according to claim 1, wherein the digital audio data is encoded by the audio host (see figs. 4-7; pages 20-27, Ghori teaches that the digital audio data is encoded by a host computer).

As to claim 4, Ghori teaches the method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of coding schemes include mp3, wav, au, and aiff (see page 16).

As to claim 5, Ghori teaches the method according to claim 1, wherein receiving digital audio data comprises receiving a plurality of digital audio data segments and reconstructing the digital audio data from the received plurality of digital audio data segments (see pages 26-27).

As to claim 6, Ghori teaches the method according to claim 5, wherein the coding scheme is determined by identifying an indicator code included within at least one of the plurality of digital audio data segments (see pages 27-33, Ghori teaches that digital audio packets include an encoding indicator).

As to claim 7, Ghori teaches the method according to claim 1, wherein decoding further comprises: determining whether the received digital audio data is compressed; and decompressing the compressed digital audio data based upon the determined coding scheme (see pages 27-30, Ghori teaches determining whether the audio signal is compressed).

As to claim 8, Ghori teaches the method according to claim 7, further comprising outputting the analog audio to an amplification device (see fig. 10; page 30).

As to claim 9, Ghori teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the digital audio data is received across at least one of a plurality of home-based networks including a phone line network, a power line network, and a Home RF network (see figs. 1-7; pages 16-27, Ghori teaches that the audio signal is received across a Home RF network).

Claims 10-22 do not teach or define any new limitations above claims 1-9 and therefore are rejected for similar reasons.

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Methods and systems for transporting multimedia conference data streams through a transport network by Kerr, U.S. Patent No. 5,844,600.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Saleh Najjar whose telephone number is (703) 308-7613. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:30 to 3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, AN MENG AI, can be reached on (703) 305-9678. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-9052.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600. The fax number for the After-Final correspondence/amendment is (703) 746-7238. The fax number for official correspondence/amendment is (703) 746-7239. The fax number for Non-official draft correspondence/amendment is (703) 746-7240.



Saleh Najjar

Primary Examiner / Art Unit 2154